

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
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OPNAVINST 1414.2
N889H
6 September 1995

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1414.2

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees not having Navy personnel attached)

Subj: ENLISTED AVIATION WARFARE SPECIALIST (EAWS) QUALIFICATION PROGRAM

1. Purpose. To revise requirements for qualification and designation of Navy enlisted personnel as EAWS and to renumber the instruction following current Standard Subject Identification Codes.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1412.5C.

3. Discussion. The EAWS program recognizes the exceptional achievement, initiative and professional qualifications of enlisted personnel serving in Naval Aviation. Designation as an EAWS signifies that the individual has attained significant professional skills, knowledge and experience in direct support of the Naval Air Warfare mission. EAWS qualification is voluntary and may only be obtained through the formal qualification program set forth in this instruction. An activity's command master chief (CMC) is responsible for ensuring integrity of that command's EAWS program. CMC's shall ensure the standards and procedures required to qualify as an EAWS are maintained.

4. Eligibility. EAWS qualification recognizes the efforts of a select group of enlisted personnel trained in Naval Aviation-related specialties. Prior to enrollment in an EAWS program, enlisted personnel must complete 24 months time-in-service, 12 months accumulated sea duty (type 2 or 4) and be currently assigned to the following activities:

a. Deployable aviation squadrons and their detachments.

b. Aviation capable ships (for the purpose of this instruction, aviation capable ships are limited to CV, CVN, LPH, LHA and LHD).

c. Aviation staffs afloat.

d. Sea Operational Detachments (SEA-OPDETS).

5. Qualification

a. Candidates for EAWS shall:

(1) meet the eligibility criteria in paragraph 4.

(2) be professionally qualified (i.e., specific Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS) requirements to perform duties successfully completed, etc.) as required by their commanding officer (CO).

(3) be recommended by their chain of command with approval by their CO.

(4) have attained the grade of E-4 or above.

(5) for E-4, have an overall performance rating of 3.6 or above for the last 24 months with no mark below 3.4.

(6) for E-5 and above, have an overall performance rating of 3.8 or above for the last 24 months with no mark below 3.6.

NOTE: After 1 January 1996 when the new evaluation system is implemented, candidates will have no trait grades below 3.0, and be promotable or above.

(7) have successfully completed the PQS for EAWS (NAVEDTRA 43423C) within 24 months of entry into the program (48 months for selected reserve personnel). If the participant has not completed all required tasks within the given timelines, the member shall be disenrolled from the



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EAWS program. The program coordinator shall ensure an appropriate page 13 service record entry is made.

(8) have successfully passed a comprehensive oral examination by a local Qualification Review Board whose chairperson will be an aviation maintenance/aviation officer (O-3 or above) designated in writing by the CO. The board will include the unit's EAWS program coordinator and a minimum of three other EAWS qualified (E-5 or above) personnel. The EAWS PQS shall be used as the basis for the oral examination.

(a) If a member fails the oral examination board, another oral examination board may be given to the member within 45 days.

(b) Failure to pass the second oral examination board within 45 days of the initial examination requires disenrollment from the EAWS program and an appropriate page 13 service record entry.

(9) Achieve EAWS qualification prior to a permanent change of station (PCS). If qualification is not attained prior to the PCS transfer, the EAWS program coordinator shall place a "Memorandum for the Record" in the member's service record certifying those PQS sections completed. If the gaining command has an authorized EAWS program, the gaining command shall recognize the recorded PQS attainment to date, but may require a demonstration of knowledge in any area completed at the previous command. Irrespective of a PCS transfer, total time for completion of PQS can not exceed 24 months (48 months for members of the selected reserve).

(10) Members who meet the criteria in paragraph 4 may request enrollment in the EAWS program of another activity if their command does not have an EAWS program established. For members who complete the PQS requirements while enrolled in the program of a unit other than the one to which they are permanently assigned, the CO of the PQS completing unit will inform the

member's CO by letter of the member's satisfactory completion of all PQS requirements (including the oral board). Final EAWS designation will be made by the member's CO (due to its unique nature, personnel assigned to a SEAOPDET may obtain final EAWS designation by the ship's CO while deployed).

(11) Members of non-aviation ratings must attain designation in their primary warfare specialty prior to enrolling in an EAWS program.

b. The EAWS coordinator shall:

(1) ensure all appropriate entries are documented in the participant's service record as follows:

(a) date of commencement of the qualification process shall be documented on page 13 of the member's service record.

(b) annotate completion of the EAWS PQS on page 4 of the member's service record.

(c) When the member has been designated as an EAWS, the following page 13 service record entry will be made:

"(Date): Qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) this date and assigned the EAWS (AW) designator."

(2) Submit an appropriate diary message entry input to the qualifying command's cognizant personnel office/Personnel Support Detachment (PSD).

c. CO's may approve EAWS designation for only those enlisted personnel permanently assigned to their Command.

d. CO's shall recognize EAWS designation at an appropriate ceremony and relevant comments should be incorporated in the member's next evaluation.

e. EAWS certificates may be obtained through normal supply channels using NSN 0501-LP-223-7301.

f. In the interest of maintaining credible and consistent standards of qualification, type commanders and immediate superiors in command (ISICs) are directed to ensure that the spirit and intent of this instruction are strictly adhered to by units assigned to their command. This should be accomplished by periodic monitoring and evaluation of subordinate command EAWS qualifiers and qualification programs.

6. Qualification Continuance

a. Once EAWS designated, PCS transfer to another command will not necessitate requalification or revalidation of the EAWS PQS. Certification of unique aircraft type/model/series (TMS) systems knowledge in the new aviation command, or shipboard systems knowledge in the new aviation capable ship shall be as required by the new aviation command's/ship's EAWS qualifying officer.

b. EAWS-designated enlisted personnel who subsequently accept appointments as commissioned officers are authorized to wear the EAWS insignia after commissioning per U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations.

7. Disqualification

a. EAWS designated members shall be disqualified by the CO if any of the following conditions arise:

(1) member fails to maintain an overall performance mark of 3.6.

(2) member refuses to accept or perform professional duties.

(3) moral integrity is not satisfactorily maintained.

(4) for any reason deemed appropriate by the CO.

NOTE: Disqualification shall not be in lieu of disciplinary action but should be considered coincidentally.

b. Formal notification of disqualification shall be recorded in the member's service record as a page 13 entry (specific rationale for disqualification must be stated) as follows:

"(Date): Failed to maintain qualification as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) by (include specific rationale for disqualification). Member has been informed that as of this date he/she is disqualified and is no longer authorized to wear the EAWS insignia or use the (AW) designator as part of his/her rating."

c. Once disqualified, the member may seek approval to requalify from his/her CO. To be redesignated the member must meet all requirements of this instruction and once again successfully complete the entire EAWS qualification process.

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(N88)

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